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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Reverend Carlton Cross, First United Methodist Church, Prescott, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we pray with thanksgiving for the breath of life. May we be an example of Your love and let us be thankful for this earth that You have shared with us.

We take this opportunity to ask for wisdom for all the world leaders. At the time of creation, You tell us that Your creation was good. Let us in faithful service do our part to continue Your goodness.

We lift our prayers for President Obama, the House of Representatives, and the Senate floor. We lift our prayers on behalf of all government, State, and local leaders.

We pray for our armed forces. We ask Your protection for them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We lift to You the families that have lost loved ones in faithful service to our country.

God, offer the House of Representatives the wisdom to conduct the business of the day in a way that would be pleasing to You.

Hear our prayers, Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REV. CARLTON CROSS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend and pastor, Rev. Carlton Cross, from my hometown of Prescott, Arkansas, and today's guest chaplain in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As an ordained deacon and elder, Rev. Cross has been serving in the United Methodist Church for the past 20 years. Leading congregations throughout Arkansas, Rev. Cross is well respected and admired wherever he goes.

Possessing a great passion for mission work, Rev. Cross' impact on the community reaches far beyond the pulpit, including his active involvement in the Ozark Mission Project for the past 15 years.

Rev. Cross is a graduate of Arkansas State University and holds a Master of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Tracy, have 10-year-old twins, Brady and Shelby.

Rev. Cross currently serves First Methodist United Church in Prescott, where my family and I are members. As a close personal friend and my spiritual guide, I can attest to Rev. Cross' sincere commitment to his church, his community, his faith and his country.

It is my distinct privilege and honor to recognize Rev. Carlton Cross as guest chaplain on this day in the United States House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, before we celebrate the new health care legislation, keep in mind that the American people will be required by law to buy private insurance, and they will pay a penalty if they don't; that insurance companies will be subsidized by the government; that insurance companies have had double-digit increases in premiums in the past 4 years; that we are locking in a for-profit structure. This is the result of a health care debate, the flawed premise of which is that health care reform cannot happen without the cooperation of the insurance companies which make money not providing health care.

The truth is that reform cannot happen with them; that insurance companies are the problem, not the solution; and that the legislation, no matter how well intended, will likely not be able to deliver and cost too much and be another bailout for Big Business at the expense of the American people.

BRUISING THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the government-run universal health care bill forces businesses and citizens to buy the government-approved insurance whether they want to or not, and whether they can afford it or not. This is a totalitarian concept.

The Constitution does not give this oppressive power to the Federal Government. Nowhere in this document

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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